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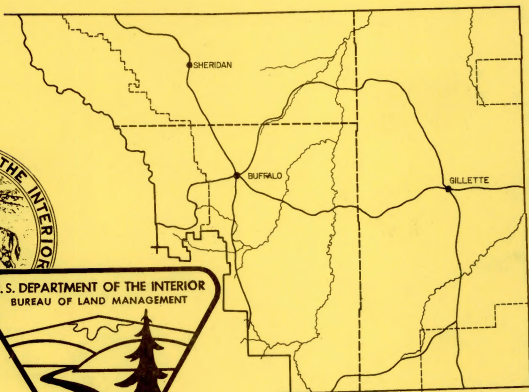
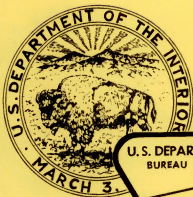
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASPER, WYOMING

BLM

LAND USE PLANNING



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**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Casper District
Buffalo Resource Area**

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INTRODUCTION

We need your help!

We're the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and we need your ideas on how the half million acres of National Resource Lands in Campbell, Sheridan, and most of Johnson County should be used.

These lands--often called "public lands" or "public domain"--contain resources that are especially valuable to mining, grazing, wildlife, recreation, and archeological interests. A large section of the energy rich Powder River Basin is included in this planning area.

There are many possible uses that can be made of the National Resource Lands. Often the uses are conflicting. We would appreciate your help in resolving such conflicts. You can also help identify other possible uses or problems of which we may not have been aware.

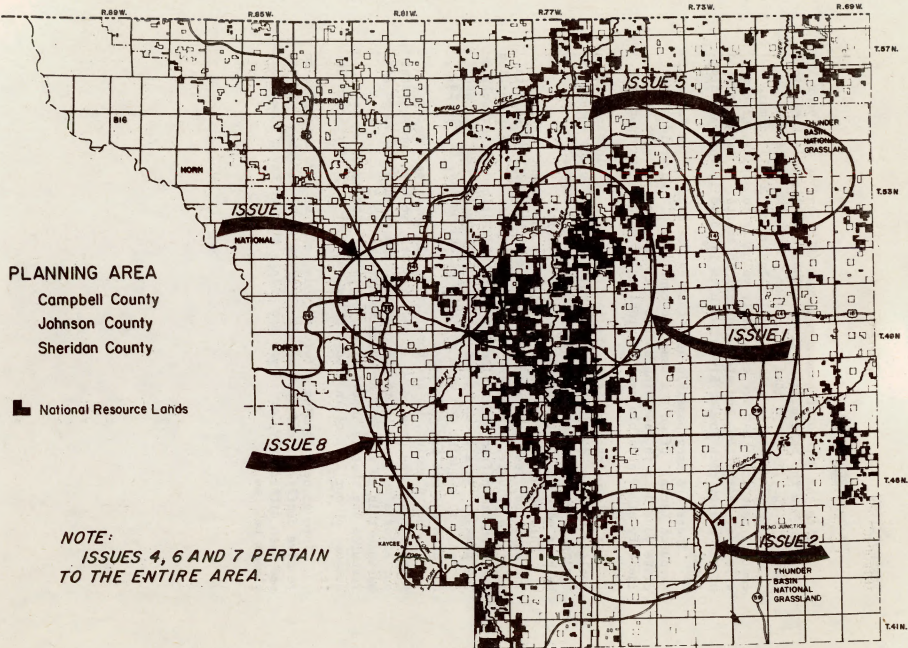
At this point, BLM is in the initial stages of planning. We realize that our data base is not complete. That is why we are coming to you. We need your land use ideas and suggestions to help us make the best land use decisions possible.

This document describes the lands, the management problems, and opportunities associated with them, and their relationship to adjoining private, state, and other Federal lands. The information has been drawn from BLM's planning system (described in the following pages). This document and the attendant public meetings are designed to acquaint you with resource relationships, conflicts, and alternatives for this area.

In our planning, we are considering all the area's natural resources and the uses known to us. However, we have concentrated our efforts on lands where BLM owns both the surface and subsurface because this is the land on which we have the most data. If a resource use that is important to you is not discussed, it is because of our lack of knowledge of it, not our lack of concern for it.

Through our planning effort to this point we have attempted to resolve conflicts, and develop alternatives as we see them. If you see them differently, or if you see things that we haven't mentioned, please tell us so.

INDEX MAP



PLANNING AREA

Campbell County
Johnson County
Sheridan County

 National Resource Lands

NOTE:

ISSUES 4, 6 AND 7 PERTAIN
TO THE ENTIRE AREA.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA

The Buffalo Resource Area covers Campbell, Sheridan, Crook, Weston, and all but a small portion of Johnson County. BLM planning for the South Bighorn section of Johnson County was completed in 1974. The present series of planning meetings covers the remainder of Johnson County plus Sheridan and Campbell Counties.

Geologically, the area can be divided into two distinct parts. The larger eastern part (Campbell County, and the eastern portions of Johnson and Sheridan Counties) is all part of the even larger Powder River Basin that covers much of eastern Wyoming, eastern Montana, and western North Dakota. The smaller geologic part is the western part encompassing the eastern slopes of the Bighorn Mountains.

The Powder River Basin portion of the area has enormous potential for energy resource development--namely oil and gas, coal, and uranium. Because of its immense amount of energy fuel, the Powder River Basin is considered to be a national energy center and as such is experiencing tremendous impacts economically, sociologically, and environmentally. BLM's Buffalo Resource Area administers a significant portion of the basin.

On the surface, most of the area is prime grazing land. It is BLM's responsibility to administer grazing leases to protect the grazing values of the area. The Buffalo Resource Area administers 309 grazing leases for this purpose.

The area also provides a wide variety of wildlife habitat. The natural vegetation runs from sagebrush to grassland, to Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir. The area abounds in wildlife including mule deer, white-tailed deer, antelope, elk, black bear, wild turkey, sharp-tailed grouse, pheasants, rabbits, prairie dogs, bald eagles, golden eagles, coyotes, bobcats, cougars, hundreds of bird species, rodents, and fur bearing animals. There is also an occasional sighting of the endangered American Peregrine Falcon, and the possibility of the existence of the endangered Black-footed Ferret. BLM has the responsibility to manage the wildlife habitat for animals that reside on BLM-administered land. BLM also has the responsibility to assist other agencies in protecting the animals on the endangered species list.

National Resource Lands provide recreation opportunities for people interested in hunting, sightseeing, snowmobiling, scientific study, and rockhounding. Big game hunters utilize the entire area. Snowmobilers use BLM land in the Red Grade area southwest of Sheridan. Sightseers tend to concentrate along the Bozeman Trail running from the southwest corner of Campbell County through Johnson and Sheridan Counties to Montana; along the Powder River Breaks in Campbell County; and around the Pumpkin Buttes area in southwest Campbell County. Sightseers interested in geologic formations show interest in a thrust fault area on Highway 16 ten miles west of Buffalo, and in the Dry Creek Petrified Forest

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the specific results of the work.

2. The second part of the report deals with the specific results of the work. It is divided into three main sections: the first section deals with the results of the work in the field of agriculture, the second section deals with the results of the work in the field of industry, and the third section deals with the results of the work in the field of commerce.

3. The third part of the report deals with the conclusions and recommendations. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the conclusions and the second section deals with the recommendations.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the appendix. It contains a list of the names of the persons who have taken part in the work, a list of the names of the persons who have given assistance, and a list of the names of the persons who have given advice.

ten miles east of Buffalo. The Petrified Forest is also an interesting area for rockhounds.

There are seven major areas that are of archeological interest: the Sand Creek site (Indian tipi rings) in Johnson County; the Sisters Hill site (Indian and prehistoric man living area) in Johnson County; the Crazy Woman Battlefield site (historical site where Indians attacked soldiers moving along the Bozeman Trail) in Johnson County; the Cantonment Reno site (a historical military reservation) in Johnson County; the Kinney Crossing site (a grave area where a stagecoach overturned) in Johnson County; and the Buffalo Creek Bison Kill site in Sheridan County and the Ruby archeological site in Campbell County (both Indian buffalo kill sites).

The population of the three county area is 36,746. Sheridan is the largest city (approximately 13,000 pop.), Gillette is the second largest (approximately 9,000 pop.), and Buffalo is the third largest (approximately 4,500 pop.). Other towns in this area include Bighorn, Dayton, Kaycee, and Lynch. The energy boom situation is bringing a large number of new people into the area. Gillette is one of the state's fastest growing towns and is being directly impacted by the energy boom situation. BLM environmental impact statement projections predict the population in the three counties (Johnson, Sheridan, and Campbell) will increase by 21,000 in 1980, with Campbell County experiencing the bulk of the increases (projections for Campbell County say that the population will nearly double by 1980).

WHY LAND USE PLANNING?

One has to look back in history for the answer to this question. The National Resource Lands administered by BLM are in effect residual lands. They are what remains of our original Federal estate after a century of homesteading and various grants under the public land laws and reservations for national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other special uses. In the past, they were administered primarily on a custodial basis because there was always some question as to their future tenure. However, events of recent years have erased much of the uncertainty over land tenure and the National Resource Lands are now coming under intensive, long-range multiple use management.

In recent years eastern Wyoming has been near the center of the national drive for energy development, and as such it is also the center for much energy development conflict and controversy. BLM is frequently in the midst of these conflicts because of the important natural resources under its administration. Decisions must be made in a very sensitive environment, and their ramifications are often far reaching and complex. The land use decisions that BLM makes can have dramatic effects on the lives of many people, not only in this area but throughout the entire country. That is why we want your ideas on land uses.

Some people wonder why planning boundaries take in more than

just the National Resource Lands. The reason is that the National Resource Lands cannot be studied or managed in a vacuum. They are related to the lands around them physically, economically, and socially. For instance, minerals, forage, and other materials sold from the National Resource Lands affect the local economy. Wildfire knows no boundaries and can sweep across public and private lands alike. Game animals, which belong to the state, find food and shelter for all or part of a year on the National Resource Lands. For reasons such as these, the boundaries we are dealing with are extended to take in a reasonable geographic, economic, and social area of which the National Resource Lands are an integral part. Certain types of data, such as deer migration routes or fire hazards are gathered throughout the area. However, Management Framework Plan decisions apply ONLY to the National Resource Lands administered by BLM and Federal mineral estate.

THE BLM PLANNING SYSTEM - WHERE ARE WE?

In 1964, BLM started developing a planning process to better determine which land use, or combination of land uses, could take place within given geographic areas. After a period of design and testing, the BLM Planning System was adopted and implementation started in July 1969. This system is presently being used to develop and maintain land use plans which consider all of the various resource uses for all National Resource Lands.

The BLM Planning System is similar to traditional planning approaches. It includes such usual components as goals, objectives, inventory of physical resources, socio-economic data, and public participation. However, it differs in several ways. It has techniques requiring the description and comparison of "trade offs" or what is gained or lost when decisions are made to accept various alternatives. Another major departure from traditional planning philosophy is the concept and requirements of assessing the single-use potentials of each physical resource.

In brief, the system works this way. The first step in the procedure is to delineate the BLM administered land into specific geographic areas. Here we will concern ourselves with the geographic area enclosing Campbell, Sheridan, and most of Johnson County. The basic resource data for this area is collected and analyzed in a document called a Unit Resource Analysis (URA). The URA includes a detailed description of the environment of the area, a physical inventory of individual resources (lands, minerals, livestock forage, forestry, recreation, wildlife, watershed), and analysis of the resource production opportunities without multiple-use consideration.

After URA's are completed, a Management Framework Plan (MFP) is prepared for a planning area. The MFP is a conceptual plan which indicates how the National Resource Lands in a given geographical area should be managed.

Basically, an MFP is the result of a process designed to identify and reconcile major land and resource use conflicts. The MFP provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for an area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource--much like a blueprint guides an engineer. It is prepared using an interdisciplinary approach at the field level of BLM employees. Coordination with a variety of groups and interests is obtained in an organized public participation process. THIS IS WHERE WE ARE NOW.

BLM would appreciate your ideas on the various recommendations we are presenting to you for your consideration. Your ideas will help us formulate a Management Framework Plan on which our land use decisions for this area will be based. If public input indicates that our recommendations ought to be reworked or revised, we will alter our recommendations to fit the new data that the public has supplied. We will work with the public throughout the formulation of the MFP to develop the best plan possible.

Finally, whenever we feel that we have gathered enough data on which to base our decisions we will take Step 3 in the MFP process and analyze all the data brought forward in Step 1 and Step 2 and the data gained from the public and then decide on how to best use the resource in question. The public will also be notified of our planning decisions.

RECOMMENDATION AREA I FORTIFICATION CREEK

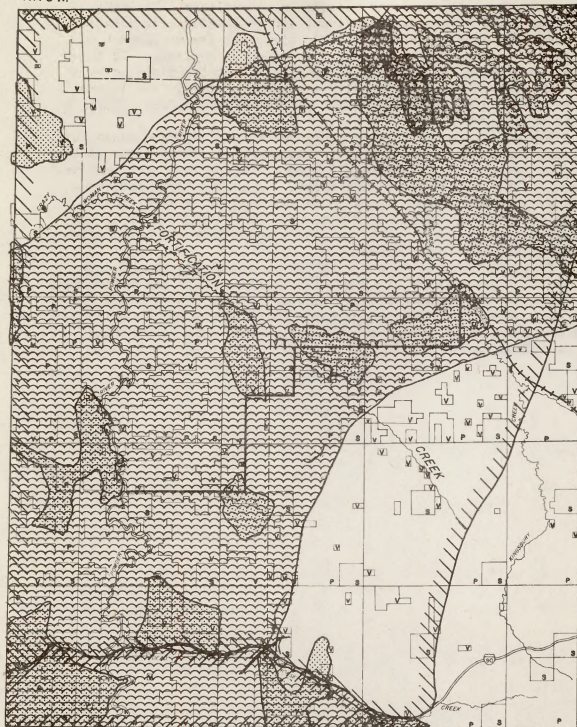
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 COAL

 RANGELAND

 WILDLIFE

 WATERSHED

RECOMMENDATION AREA 1 - FORTIFICATION CREEK

The Fortification Creek area includes 83,000 acres of National Resource Lands intermingled with privately-owned surface about 28 miles northwest of Gillette.

Values: (not listed according to priority)

- ** Unique habitat for 200 head of elk now using the area
- ** Habitat for deer, antelope, and upland game
- ** Valuable for watershed
- ** Livestock grazing area
- ** Coal, oil and gas found below surface
- ** Scenic open space values, hunting, and hiking

Conflicts:

** Elk vs. Livestock

The elk and livestock compete for existing forage which isn't sufficient to sustain both. Foraging elk interfere with intensive grazing systems for domestic livestock.

** Minerals Exploration vs. Elk

The elk herd inhabits the "prairie breaks" type habitat because of the cover and solitude that exists in the area. Minerals exploration activity will disrupt the solitude and take away some of their cover. This would drive the elk herd to other areas, that probably won't be able to support them thereby leading to the elimination of the elk herd.

** Minerals Exploration vs. Esthetic Values

Minerals development will tend to mar the natural quality of the area.

** Recreation vs. Livestock Grazing

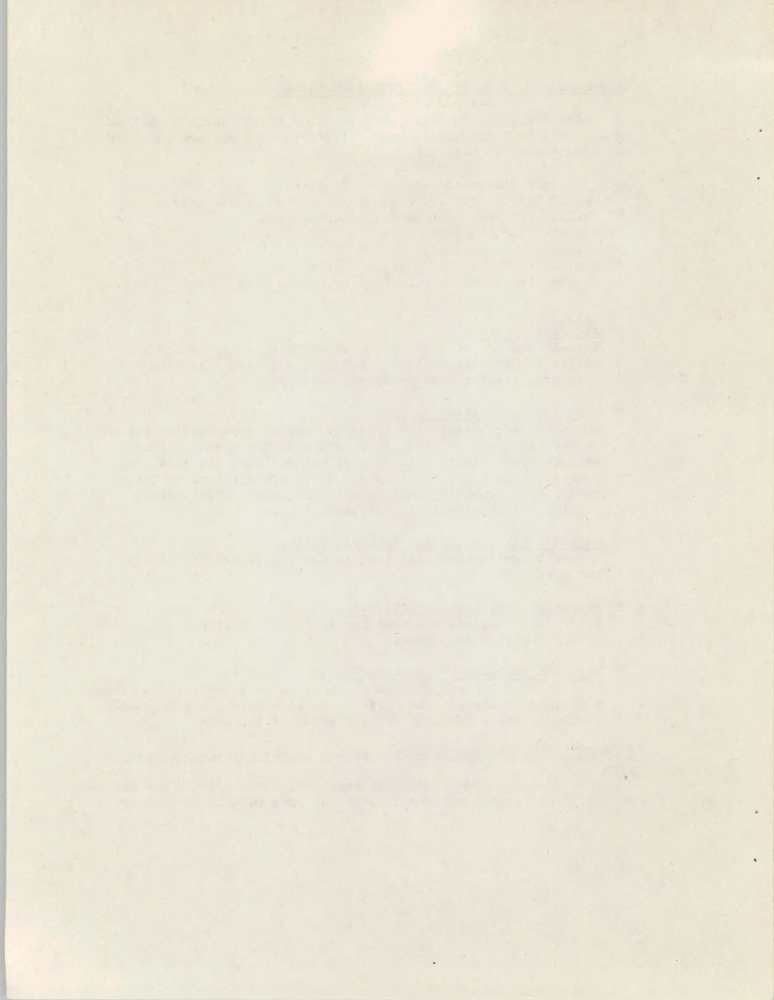
Livestock forage development projects are not always compatible with recreation development.

** Off-Road Vehicles vs. Natural Values

The use of off-road vehicles in the area could create new trails and cause erosion. Such activity is also noisy, which would further detract from the natural value of the area.

RECOMMENDATION: Do Not Develop Minerals in the Fortification Creek Area

Withdraw all Federal mineral reserves, under private and public surface from mineral entry and close the area to mineral leasing or



mineral material sales. Maintain the habitat for 200 head of elk now using the area. Restrict off-road vehicle use where necessary to protect the natural values of the area. Intensively develop livestock forage and wildlife habitat.

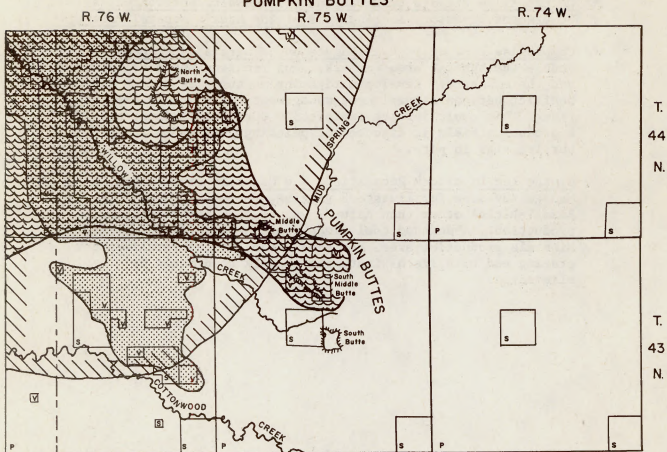
Alternatives:

**** Do not Allow Private Exploration for Minerals, but Conduct a Government Inventory and Analysis of the Area's Mineral Potential**

**** Compromise Between Natural Values and Minerals Development**
Reduce the habitat area for elk, thus reducing the conflict area and the elk herd. Develop mitigating measures to reduce the conflict between natural area management and minerals exploration. This could involve exploration during the winter and if a producing field is discovered, painting pump jacks and/or burying rigs in pits.

**** Manage for Livestock Recreation, and Minerals Development**
Manage the area for livestock grazing, recreation uses (Off-Road Vehicle) other than natural values, and for minerals production. Abandoned coal mines could be used as ORV areas. Minerals production areas could be rehabilitated for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat, but the elk herd would be eliminated.

RECOMMENDATION AREA 2 PUMPKIN BUTTES



WILDLIFE



RANGELAND



WATERSHED

RECOMMENDATION AREA 2 - PUMPKIN BUTTES

This area is a high mesa extending upward some 500 feet above the prairie floor in southern Campbell County.

Values: (not listed according to priority)

- ** The top of the mesa is still pristine in nature
- ** The entire mesa has scenic values for that portion of the Powder River Basin.
- ** The Buttes are underlain by deposits of uranium, coal, and oil. (uranium is scarce and may not be easily developed elsewhere.)
- ** The area provides habitat for many wildlife species including deer and antelope
- ** The area has recreation development opportunities, including camping areas, overlooks and nature trails
- ** The area is important for livestock grazing

Conflicts:

** Minerals Development vs. Ecological Values

Minerals development is not compatible with the open space and natural ecological values now existing in the area.

** Recreation Development vs. Wildlife and Livestock Management

Recreation development will bring more people into the area resulting in additional pressure on wildlife herds and livestock management.

RECOMMENDATION: Disallow Minerals Development in the Area

Withdraw all Federal mineral reserves under public and private surface in the area from entry also close it to mineral leasing and mineral material sales. Develop recreation values in the area and manage to maintain habitat for wildlife and livestock.

Alternatives:

** Develop Recreation and Minerals Together

Develop the area for recreation in conjunction with the minerals program, withdrawing only the top of the Buttes and the proposed camp site.

** Develop Recreation and Minerals Together (without camp site)

Same as number one, only without developing the camp site

** Manage for Wildlife, Livestock Grazing, and Minerals Production

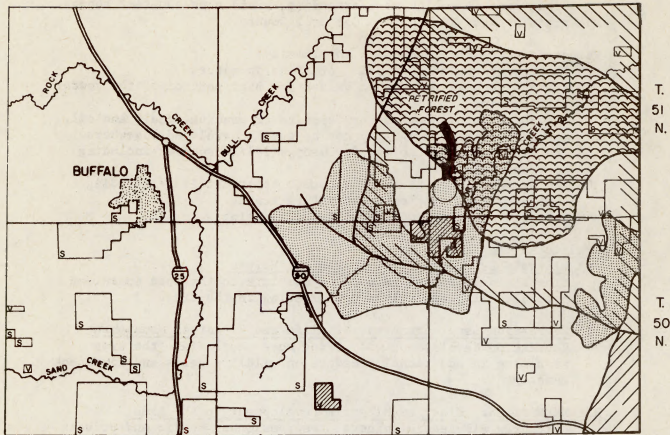
Manage the area for wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, and minerals production and make recreation and natural values secondary.

RECOMMENDATION AREA 3 DRY CREEK PETRIFIED FOREST

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R. 80 W.



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STOCK DRIVE

MINERALS

WILDLIFE

RANGELAND

RECOMMENDATION AREA 3 - DRY CREEK PETRIFIED FOREST

This is a 130 acre site 10 miles east of Buffalo which contains many good specimens of petrified trees.

Values: (not listed according to priority)

- ** Many petrified trees for study and natural value
- ** Area used as a livestock driveway
- ** Area provides much wildlife habitat
- ** Oil and coal deposits underneath the area

Conflicts:

** Minerals Development vs. Natural Values

The area overlies oil and coal deposits which could not be developed if the area was withdrawn from mineral entry.

** Natural Values vs. Livestock Driveway

The area is now withdrawn as a livestock driveway and protection for recreation and natural values would exclude this use.

** Recreation vs. Wildlife

If the area were developed to attract people, the increase in the number of people visiting the area would adversely affect wildlife populations in the area.

** Preservation of Natural Values vs. Rockhounding

Petrified wood could be collected in the area if it was withdrawn from mineral entry.

RECOMMENDATION: Preserve the Natural Values

Withdraw the 130 acres from mineral entry, exclude livestock grazing, and disallow the sale or leasing of mineral materials; build a protective fence and install interpretive signs in the area.

Alternatives:

** Preserve the Natural Values in a Smaller Area

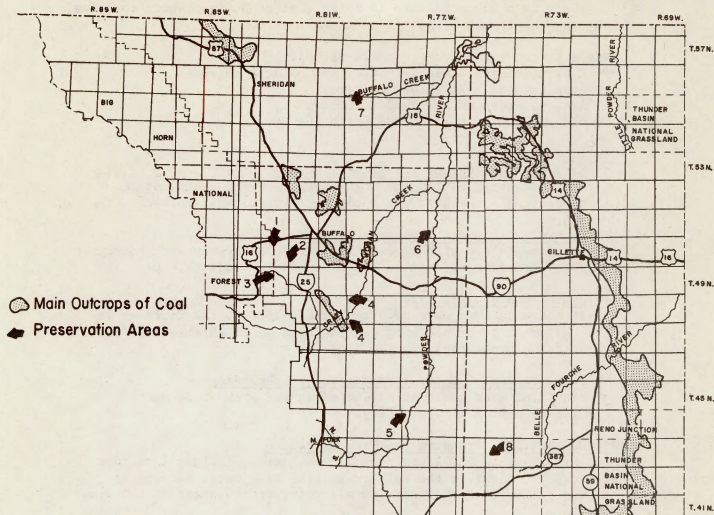
Same as the recommendation only encompass about 40 acres of the better petrified specimens and not the entire 130 acre site.

** Encourage Local Government to Manage the Area

Same as the recommendation or alternative 1, only encourage management under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act by the City of Buffalo or Johnson County.

RECOMMENDATION AREA 4

CULTURAL PRESERVATION AREAS IN JOHNSON, CAMPBELL, AND SHERIDAN COUNTIES



RECOMMENDATION AREA 4 - CULTURAL PRESERVATION AREAS IN JOHNSON,
CAMPBELL, AND SHERIDAN COUNTIES

There are several areas which possess cultural, historical, or archeological values in need of protection. Some of the sites are on public land and some are on private. BLM has no jurisdiction over the private sites, but would be willing to cooperate in their protection if private landowners requested it. *good language*

1. Environmental Education Area south of Mosier Gulch in Clear Creek Drainage (120 acres), Johnson County. An Easter Seal Camp is in the area, and BLM proposes to develop the site as an environmental education area with nature trails and interpretive signs.
2. Sand Creek archeological site (40 acres), Johnson County. Manage the area to preserve the Indian archeological resources (Indian tipi rings).
3. Sisters Hill archeological site (40 acres), Johnson County. Manage the area to preserve the Indian and prehistoric man archeologic site (private surface).
4. Crazy Woman Battlefield (720 acres), Johnson County. Manage the area to preserve the historical site where Indians attacked soldiers moving along the Bozeman Trail (some private surface).
5. Contonment Reno site (160 acres), Johnson County. Manage the area to preserve the historical site of an old military reservation.
6. Kinney Crossing site (40 acres), Johnson County. Manage the area to preserve the site where a stagecoach overturned and the graves of the passengers killed still remain (private surface).
7. Buffalo Creek Bison Kill archeological site (40 acres), Sheridan County. Manage the area to preserve the archeological site where Indians drove herds of buffalo over a cliff (private surface).
8. Ruby archeological site (40 acres), Campbell County. Manage the area to preserve the archeological site where Indians drove herds of buffalo over a cliff (private surface).

Conflicts:

**** Cultural Values vs. Minerals Development**

If the area is managed to preserve the cultural values on or near the surface, the minerals lying underneath will not be allowed to be developed.

**** Public Visits vs. Preservation of Cultural Values**

If public attention is attracted to these areas, the resulting increased public use may destroy the resource values which are being protected.

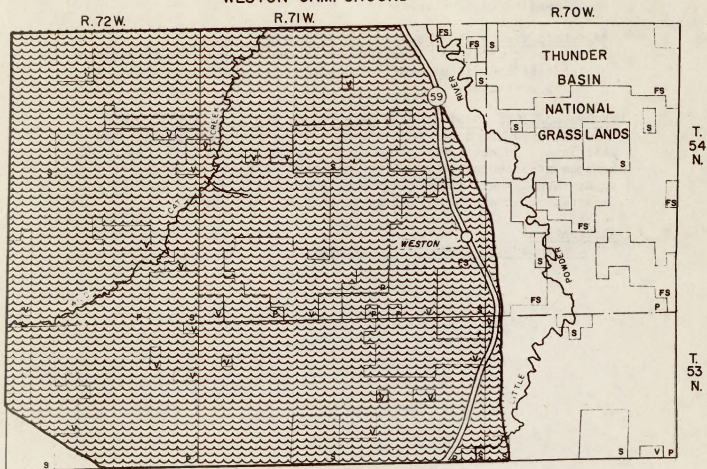
RECOMMENDATION: Protect from Development and Limit Public Use

Withdraw the sites from minerals development and public land sale laws. Do not develop the sites for full public enjoyment until management planning is completed and the areas can be adequately supervised. Where private surface is involved, attempt to work out cooperative arrangements for protection and management.

Alternative:

**** Continue with Custodial Management**

RECOMMENDATION AREA 5 WESTON CAMPGROUND



WILDLIFE

RECOMMENDATION AREA 5 - WESTON CAMPGROUND

About 6,000 acres of National Resource Lands are located next to the smaller northern section of the Thunder Basin National Grassland just west of the Town of Weston in Campbell County.

Values: (not listed according to priority)

- ** Recreational use, mainly camping area during hunting season
- ** Wildlife habitat
- ** Livestock grazing area
- ** Oil and gas, and coal deposits underneath the area

Conflicts:

** Recreation vs. Grazing and Minerals

If the area is developed for campground use, approximately 40 acres would be fenced off from livestock grazing and excluded from minerals development.

** Public Use vs. Natural Values

Campers now use the area but are not concentrated in one certain spot. This causes littering, sanitation, and fire problems over a wide area. If a campground were developed, garbage and sanitation facilities in the campground would alleviate this problem to a great extent. However, a campground in the area would tend to detract from the natural value of the area to a small degree.

RECOMMENDATION: Concentrate Campers into a Developed Campground

Develop a campground on 40 acres in the area. Concentrating the camping to one area would reduce the littering and sanitation problems. BLM would conduct regular garbage and sanitation operations to maintain the campground.

Alternatives:

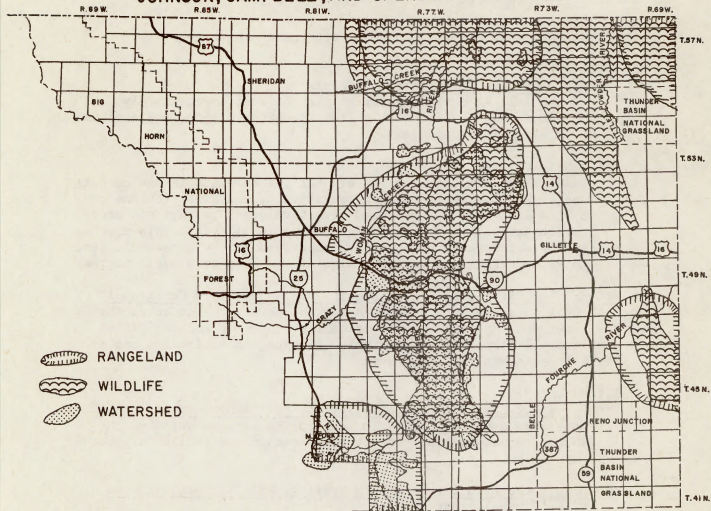
** Encourage Campbell County to Develop the Campground

Encourage Campbell County to develop the site as detailed in in the recommendation under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

** Manage the Area for livestock Grazing, Wildlife Habitat, and Mineral Development

Manage the area for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and minerals production and do not develop camping facilities.

RECOMMENDATION AREA 6
 RANGE, WATERSHED, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN
 JOHNSON, CAMPBELL, AND SHERIDAN COUNTIES



RECOMMENDATION AREA 6 - RANGE, WATERSHED, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREAS IN JOHNSON, CAMPBELL, AND SHERIDAN
COUNTIES

About one-third of the National Resource Land in Johnson, Campbell, and Sheridan Counties has been identified for intensive management of livestock grazing. Selection was based on such factors as forage potential, watershed condition, wildlife habitat values, etc. Livestock grazing can be managed to enhance any combination of surface vegetation values. However, conflicts are inherent in any combination selected.

Conflicts:

**** Wildlife vs. Livestock**

Management of these areas to maximize wildlife habitat values would require restrictions on livestock operations, including possible reductions in livestock use.

**** Livestock vs. Wildlife**

Management of these areas solely for livestock production would destroy some wildlife habitat through over utilization of vegetative species favored by both wildlife and livestock, competition for water, or interference with seasons of use, migration routes, etc.

**** Watershed vs. Wildlife, Livestock, and Recreation**

Management solely for watershed protection would involve strict controls on livestock because they are controllable. Wildlife use, on the other hand, is difficult to control. Management solely for watershed protection might also involve restrictions on road and vehicle use, which could interfere with both livestock and wildlife management.

**** Intensive Management vs. Esthetic Values**

Intensive management could mean mechanical and chemical treatment of the land. Such treatment could conflict with esthetic values.

RECOMMENDATION: Manage for Livestock, Watershed, and Wildlife Equally

Develop livestock grazing systems designed to meet watershed protection needs and current demands for livestock forage and wildlife habitat. Additional forage production capacity resulting from intensive livestock management would be utilized equally by livestock and wildlife.

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Alternatives:

**** Additional Forage Solely for Livestock**

Same as the recommendation except with all the additional forage being utilized by domestic livestock.

**** Additional Forage Solely for Wildlife**

Same as recommendation except with all the additional forage being utilized by wildlife.

**** Meet All Demands with Chemicals and Machines**

Use chemicals and mechanical devices to manipulate the vegetation to meet all demands on a re-occurring basis.

RECOMMENDATION AREA 7 - COAL LEASING AREAS IN JOHNSON, CAMPBELL,
AND SHERIDAN COUNTIES

Most of the planning area being considered at this time lies within a "known coal leasing area." Some of this area is already under lease and when current restrictions on Federal coal leasing are eased or lifted it can be expected that pressures to lease the remaining acreage will be intense. Once leased, private firms can develop the coal. Therefore, we need planning guidance for future coal leasing.

Conflicts:

**** Subsurface vs. Surface Management**

Since coal leasing can lead to mining, the presence of coal leases on a piece of land makes surface resource management for that land questionable.

**** Coal Mining vs. Surface Values**

Coal mining can destroy, or at least greatly alter surface values such as recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed, range, or cultural resources.

**** Mining Restrictions vs. the Economic Impacts**

Restrictions on coal leasing and development could cause social and economic difficulties for industry and local communities and/or intensify the national energy crisis, which could cause serious environmental problems in other areas.

RECOMMENDATION: We Need Your Opinion on This

Due to our current lack of data in this area, we are not making a recommendation at this time. However, following are some alternatives. Your opinion on the proper approach for BLM to take is requested.

Alternatives:

**** Concentrate Leasing on Main Outcrops**

Concentrate coal leasing on main outcrops (Buffalo, Sheridan, Spotted Horse, and Gillette areas), resulting in concentration of social and environmental impacts to these areas.

**** Allow Leasing Over Entire Area**

Allow coal leasing over the entire area. Let the minerals industry determine where development will occur. Mitigate the impacts on these areas.

**** Allow Leasing Only in Areas with Least Environmental Impact**

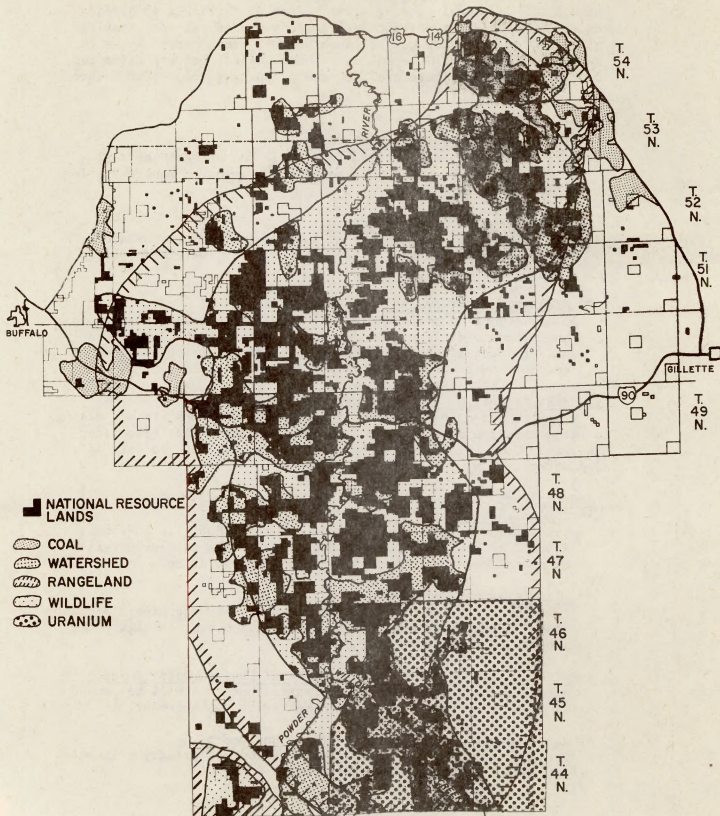
Base leasing entirely on the criteria that coal will be leased in areas that have the least impact on the environment.

**** Allow Leasing Based on Coal Quality and Depth**

Consider quality and depth of the coal as the primary criteria for establishing coal leasing areas.

RECOMMENDATION AREA 8 POWDER RIVER BREAKS

R.79W. R.78W. R.77W. R.76W. R.75W. R.74W.



RECOMMENDATION AREA 8 - POWDER RIVER BREAKS

The Powder River Breaks is a rough area on either side of the Powder River. BLM administers 250,000 acres of National Resource Land in the Powder River Breaks both north and south of Interstate 90.

Values: (not listed according to priority)

- ** Watershed values
- ** Livestock grazing
- ** Coal, uranium, oil and gas deposits
- ** Undeveloped recreation
- ** Wildlife habitat

Conflicts:

** Livestock vs. Recreation

Range improvement construction (fences, reservoirs, etc.) detracts from the naturalness of the area. Off-road vehicle use has a damaging effect, resulting in degradation of livestock forage and watershed.

** Livestock vs. Minerals Exploration

Oil and gas exploration and extraction and coal exploration causes a temporary loss of livestock forage.

** Minerals vs. Recreation

Patented mineral claims will result in the loss of public lands for recreation purposes. Minerals exploration can mar the esthetic view of the landscape.

** Minerals vs. Watershed

Road construction and minerals exploration on severe and critical watershed causes loss of top soil and watershed values.

** Livestock vs. Wildlife

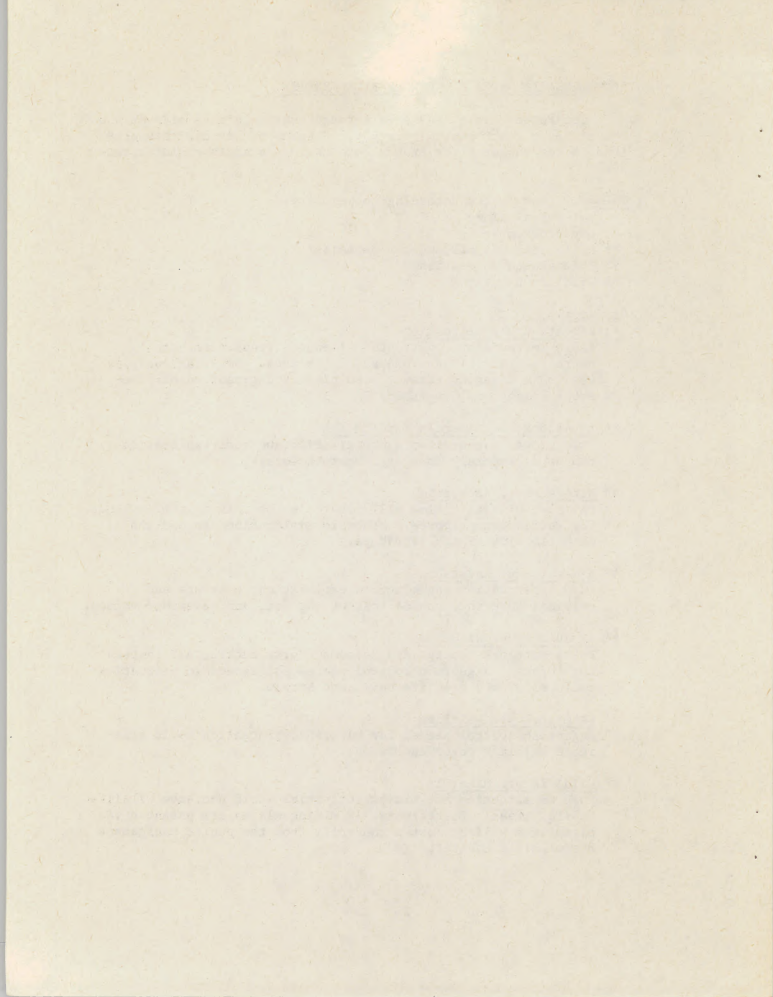
Deer, antelope, sheep, and to some degree cattle, all compete for forage. Sagebrush control needed for watershed protection could eliminate wildlife cover and browse.

** Watershed vs. Wildlife

Sagebrush control needed for watershed protection could eliminate wildlife cover and browse.

** Wildlife vs. Minerals

Road construction and mining activities would decrease wildlife habitat areas. Furthermore, if mining claims are patented the claim area will be lost permanently from the public management for wildlife habitat.

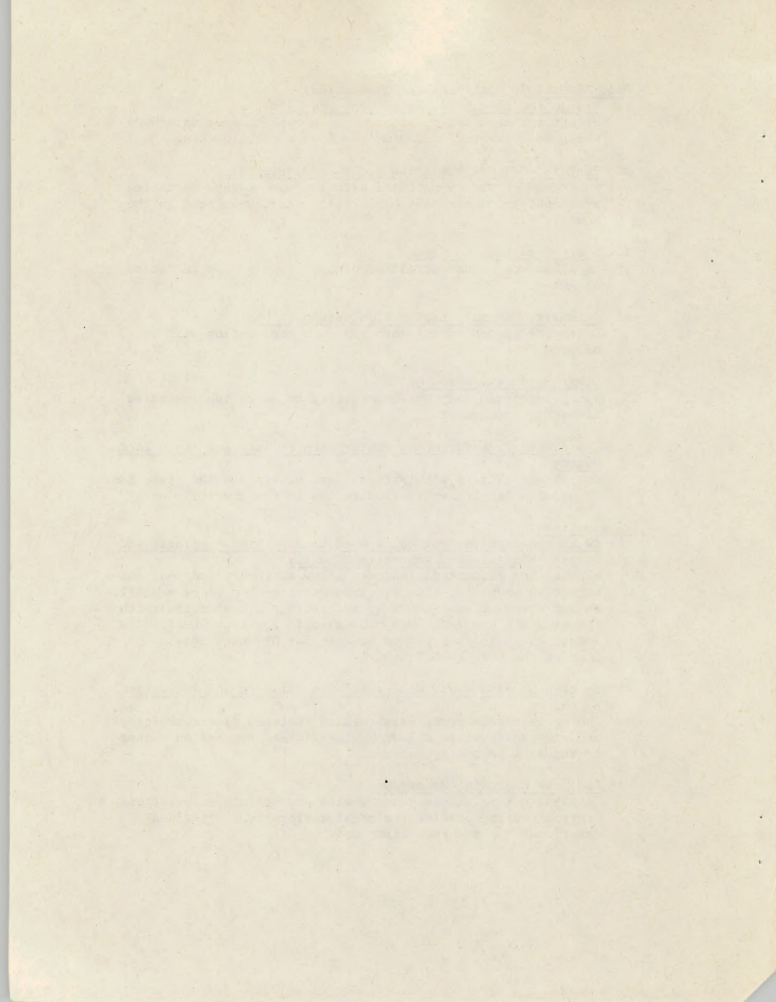


RECOMMENDATION: (All one recommendation)

1. Manage for Livestock, Watershed, and Wildlife
Manage the area using livestock as a tool to meet watershed needs and livestock and wildlife forage requirements.
2. Restrict ORV Use but Allow Minerals Development
Restrict ORV use on critical watershed and forage producing areas but allow minerals exploration and development in the area.
3. Limit Road Construction
Disallow road construction or occupancy on slopes in excess of 40%.
4. Establish Minerals Exploration Season of Use
Determine season of use when minerals exploration will be allowed.
5. Limit Sagebrush Spraying
Spray sagebrush only where necessary to establish intensive livestock management.
6. Coordinate Transportation Routes with Private and State Land Owners
Coordinate closely with private land owners and the State Land Commission for transportation routes in the area.

Alternatives:

- ** As Recommendation, but Allow Road Construction Anyplace, and Develop Minerals and Recreation Equally
Same as the recommendation only allow occupancy and road construction anyplace, thus requiring stringent surface rehabilitation stipulations. Develop recreation in conjunction with the minerals program. Use mining roads for four-wheel drive roads, etc. Solicit groups to meet for ORV meetings on opening the area to ORV use.
- ** Develop Livestock and Watershed with Wildlife and Recreation Secondary
Indiscriminately spray sagebrush to increase livestock forage and watershed values allowing wildlife and recreation values to become a secondary concern.
- ** Continue Custodial Management
Continue custodial management, with appropriate stipulations, to control grazing problems, mineral exploration, watershed deterioration, and recreation use.



DATA WEAKNESSES

We realize that our data is not complete. That's one of the reasons we're coming to you. We need to know what you know about these resources, so that we can make the best possible land use management plans. Won't you help us identify resource uses and values of which we are unaware. We would appreciate your help in answering the following questions:

1. Where are other cultural resources located?
2. Where are damaged areas resulting from excessive erosion on National Resource Lands (crop damaged areas, etc.)?
3. Which areas are receiving excessive damage from off-road vehicles or where are areas that should be used for off-road vehicles?
4. Which areas are being over utilized by wildlife and domestic livestock?
5. Are there areas where specific uses should be restricted to certain periods of the year?
6. Where are the areas where forest disease and insect problems exist?
7. Where are the grasshopper problem areas?
8. Where are communities of noxious weeds?
9. Where are dumps and hazards on public lands?
10. Where do trespass situations exist?
11. Which areas have potential for public disposal (sale)?

12. Which areas have potential for urban development?
13. Are there any sites of interest to municipalities for recreation development?
14. Which lands are valuable for utility corridors?
15. Anything else you want to tell BLM?

1. This is a very old document.

2. The document is very old and is in very poor condition.

3. The document is very old and is in very poor condition.

4. The document is very old and is in very poor condition.

COMMENT SHEET

WHY WE WANT YOUR IDEAS:

In this presentation, we have attempted to identify and explain the land use recommendations and alternatives, as we see them. There are many possible uses for these lands--but often such uses are conflicting. We would appreciate your help in resolving the conflicts and identifying any other possible uses or problems of which we may not have been aware. If a resource use that is important to you is not discussed, it is because of our lack of knowledge of it, not our lack of concern for it. We need your ideas on how the half million acres of National Resource Land in Johnson, Campbell, and Sheridan Counties should be used to make the best land use decisions possible. Written comments are generally most valuable, but whether in writing or spoken at the public meetings, we need your input.

WHO TO SEND THEM TO:

Area Manager
Buffalo Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 979
Buffalo, WY 82834

WHAT WE'LL DO WITH THEM:

Once all the public comments are gathered and analyzed, all the alternatives will be carefully weighed and land use decisions will be made. If public participation brings out information that markedly alters our recommendations, further public meetings may be held to present revised recommendations.

DECISION NOTIFICATION:

Any person who writes us a letter commenting on the ideas presented in our public meetings will get a personal response. Planning decisions will also be disseminated through the news media.

IS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AVAILABLE?

Yes, BLM planning materials can be reviewed at the Buffalo Resource Area Office.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative account of the country and its people. The author has done a great deal of research and has written a very thorough and accurate report. The second part of the report deals with the specific details of the country. It is a very detailed and accurate account of the country and its people. The author has done a great deal of research and has written a very thorough and accurate report.

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